



### **Mission**

*Lead and advise the Governor in the formulation of public policy related to HIV/AIDS in Montana.*

### **Vision**

*Recognized as a vital component and a valued partner in shaping public policy around the disease of HIV/AIDS, the Council is an informed body that collaborates with other entities involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and treatment.*

*The Council assists in identifying emerging issues; analyzes and develops positions that advance public policy and actions; and, strives to improve public relations and perceptions about HIV/AIDS.*

*The Governor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council provides the leadership required in promoting services and activities that effectively arrest the spread of HIV infection, and assuring humane treatment for infected persons.*

## **Useful HIV/AIDS Resources**

### **Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)**

[www.dphhs.mt.gov](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov)  
1-406-444-3565

### **Montana HIV/AIDS Data**

<http://hivdata.hhs.mt.gov>

### **National AIDS Hotline**

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)  
E-mail: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)

### **National Center for HIV/AIDS, STD, and TB Prevention**

[www.cdc.gov/nchhstp](http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp)

### **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**

[www.cdc.gov/hiv](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv)  
1-800-232-4636 (English and Spanish)  
1-888-232-6348 TTY

### **National Native American AIDS Prevention Center**

[www.nnaapc.org](http://www.nnaapc.org)  
1-720-382-2244

### **AIDS Action**

[www.aidsaction.org](http://www.aidsaction.org)

### **National HIV Testing Resources**

[www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org)

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

[www.AIDS.gov](http://www.AIDS.gov)

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For more information about the Governor's Advisory Council please contact us at (406) 444-3565.

## **Montana Responds to HIV/AIDS**



# **The Governor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council**

**Serving the Governor  
of Montana  
and  
Montanans  
Living with HIV/AIDS**

## The Governor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council

### What is the Montana Governor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council?

The HIV/AIDS Advisory Council is comprised of Montana citizens who serve at the discretion of the Governor. The Council members, who are appointed based on recommendations from professionals in the field, include legislators, faith-based representatives, students, social workers, medical professionals, and consumers.

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to ensure that the Governor has the most up-to-date information on research in the HIV/AIDS field, as well as the most accurate information on the best practices for Montana.

The Advisory Council collaborates with others involved in HIV/AIDS issues and provides crucial leadership in promoting services and activities that effectively arrest the spread of HIV infection in Montana. The Council's focus is on prevention as well as treatment. The Council is committed to promoting the best HIV prevention available, and to supporting the most humane and state-of-the-art treatment available for HIV-infected Montanans.

### What does the Advisory Council do?

The representatives on the Governor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council attend quarterly meetings where they discuss the current state of the HIV epidemic in our communities. They review current research, epidemiological findings, and prevention material in order to discover "best practices" appropriate for Montana. They also draft position statements that reflect the needs of Montanans living with HIV.

Although the Advisory Council does not lobby, members of the Council have testified during legislative sessions and worked as liaisons to bring community concerns to the attention of Montana lawmakers.

While much of the work for the Advisory Council is done on a volunteer basis, travel and communication expenses are provided through federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) HIV Prevention Funds.

**Experts estimate that 550-600 Montanans currently live with HIV/AIDS**

### Why does HIV/AIDS matter in a rural state like Montana?

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) remain public health concerns around the world.

Although the number of infected people and rates of transmission are lower in Montana than in many other places, experts estimate that approximately 150 people in Montana are living with HIV/AIDS and don't know it.

Individuals from all walks of life have been infected with or affected by HIV. Since 1985, more than 750 cases of HIV/AIDS have been reported in Montana. Of these, approximately 300 people have died.

Also, the number of infected Montanans continues to grow. It is estimated that 20 new cases of HIV/AIDS will be diagnosed each year.



(Data Source: DPHHS HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, December 2007)